

Previously, he held positions as dean of the College of Education at the University of Bridgeport, Connecticut, Professor of teacher education at Vanderbilt University's George Peabody College, Chair of Elementary Education at Kent State University, and as Distinguished Visiting Professor at Bir Zeit University near Ramallah in the West Bank of Palestine.

He has been recognized for his contributions to the field of education and has been a member for 10 years on the Legislative Advisory Committee to the Texas Association of School Boards. In addition, he was a member of the North Texas Area Association of School Boards' executive committee for six years. In 2010, he received an award of distinguished service at the TASB and TASA state conference, and in 1996 he achieved the Master Trustee status from TASB.

Dr. Ramsey has shared his expertise as an educational consultant and witness before the Texas Legislature. He dedicated hundreds of hours to visit and speak to legislators about many proposed bills that could have a direct impact on education, Texas students, and the country. His dedication and public service on behalf of Texas students and teachers has never wavered.

Earlier this month, Dr. Ramsey announced that he will be retiring from the Denton ISD Board of Trustees in May. His valuable contributions to education and the Denton community have been unparalleled and his departure will leave an outstanding legacy of service. I am pleased to recognize Dr. Curtis Ramsey and am privileged to represent Denton ISD in the U.S. House of Representatives.

A TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Peace Corps Week, in honor of the 51st Anniversary of the Peace Corps on March 1, 2012.

Since the inception of the Peace Corps in 1961, more than 200,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served their country in 139 developing nations around the globe. They range from recent college graduates to retirees with several decades of work experience, and represent the tremendous diversity of the American people. The issues they address cover agriculture, business development, information technology, education, health and HIV/AIDS, youth development, and the environment.

The work of Peace Corps Volunteers around the globe exemplifies a legacy of service that has become a significant part of America's history and positive image abroad. Their desire to make a difference has improved the lives of millions of people around the world as well as here in the United States. Their enduring efforts for the cause of peace are commendable and have made a lasting impact on the communities in which they have lived and worked.

Four individuals from my Congressional District in Brooklyn are presently serving as Peace Corps volunteers. Melinda Blaise has been serving in the Eastern Caribbean since

October 2010; Ethan A. Glasser-Camp has been serving in Cameroon since August 2010; Evelyn Minaya has been serving in Romania since August 2010; and Rosemarie B. Philip has been serving in Costa Rica since December 2010. Their tireless efforts for the greater cause of peace will profoundly affect these communities. I would like to applaud and commend these outstanding volunteers from Brooklyn for committing themselves to such a worthwhile cause. They are role models for us all.

HONORING THE HEROES OF SELMA, ALABAMA

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2012

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, 47 years ago this month, nearly 8,000 men and women from every walk of life took to the streets in Selma, Alabama in three successive marches to demand full and equal rights for every American.

These ordinary heroes were brutally beaten by Alabama State Troopers as they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma on Sunday, March 7, 1965. The horrifying images of Bloody Sunday, as it would become known, were captured on film and broadcast around the world—ultimately helping to galvanize national support for civil rights.

Undeterred, the marchers returned twice more, walking the streets and highways of Alabama in an unflinching show of support for equality. Among them were Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Ralph Abernathy, and our colleague Congressman JOHN LEWIS. I had the great honor last year of marking this important civil rights moment by traveling to Selma with Congressman LEWIS and participating in a reenactment of this march. It was, without question, one of the most extraordinary moments of my life.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize the extraordinary achievement of my colleague, Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL, a member of this year's freshman class, who grew up in and now represents Selma, Alabama. Congresswoman SEWELL was born in Alabama the same year as the Selma marches, and as the first African-American woman elected to Congress from Alabama and a Rhodes Scholar, I believe that her success is a testament to the lasting legacy of the brave men and women who risked their lives for equality almost a half century ago.

I join my colleagues in saluting the heroes of Selma, Alabama today.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF LT COL JOHN DARIN LOFTIS, USAF

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sympathy and solemn gratitude that I rise to pay tribute to a fallen American hero. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel John Darin Loftis, of Paducah, Kentucky, was killed on

February 25 in Kabul, Afghanistan, while working at the Afghanistan Ministry of the Interior in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. J.D. or Darin, as his family and friends knew him, was assigned to Air Force Special Operations Command.

Lt Col Loftis first entered the Air Force in 1996 as a Space and Missile Officer after receiving his commission through Officer Training School. In 2008, he became a Regional Affairs Strategist; and in 2009, he deployed to Afghanistan with a Provincial Reconstruction Team with a mission to help Afghanistan rebuild its infrastructure and secure the rule of law within the country. It was during that deployment that his fluency in the Pashto language made it possible for him and his team to engage directly with local Afghans. This helped both sides establish a mutual trust and provided a means to exchange viewpoints and learn about each other's culture. In fact, he was so successful that the local Afghans gave him the Pashto name: Esan, meaning the quality of being generous. During his last deployment, Lt Col Loftis was once again working to help U.S. service members bridge the cultural divide that separates them from their Afghan and Pakistani counterparts.

His mission was a noble one and of his dedication to duty, courage of heart, and commitment to our great nation, there can be no doubt. To Lt Col Loftis' loving wife Holly and his two precious daughters, Alison and Camille, my wife Vicki joins me in offering our most sincere condolences. We have heard many times and know in our hearts the truth that Freedom often demands of us a heavy and at times unbearable price. Your husband and father was a living example of the Airman's Creed, "I am an American Airman, guardian of freedom and justice, my nation's sword and shield, its sentry and avenger. I defend my Country with my life." He was a brave man and paid the ultimate price in defense of our nation's freedom. For that and for everything he stood for, we owe you our eternal gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful United States Congress, I stand here today to honor Lt Col John Darin Loftis, his service and sacrifice, and all of the heroes we have lost. May God continue to bless the Loftis family and friends, the AFSOC community, and the United States Armed Forces.

DIRECTING OFFICE OF HISTORIAN TO COMPILE ORAL HISTORIES FROM MEMBERS INVOLVED IN ALABAMA CIVIL RIGHTS MARCHES

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, forty-seven years ago, 600 civil rights protesters en route from Selma to Montgomery were stopped at the Edmund Pettus Bridge where state and local policemen attacked them with billy clubs and tear gas, driving them back to Selma. I was honored to vote for a resolution on March 1, 2012, calling on Congress to collect oral histories from current and former members of the House who lived through that chilling day